

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06816 271901Z
ACTION IO-13

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, EAGR, OCON
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PREPARATORY MEETING , MAY 9-13, 1977

1. A LUNCHEON MEETING WAS HELD BY ALAIN VIDAL-NAQUET, ASSISTANT TO THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ON APRIL 26 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR WFC PREPARATORY MEETING. GROUP-77 PARTICIPANTS WERE ARGENTINA, KENYA, PAKISTAN, AND YUGOSLAVIA. ON DEVELOPED COUNTRY SIDE, UK AND SWEDEN PARTICIPATED. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WAS UNABLE ATTEND BECAUSE OF IMPORTANT PREVIOUS COMMITMENT, BUT WAS BRIEFED FULLY AFTERWARD BY VIDAL-NAQUET AND LANDYMORE OF UK.

2. ON REPORT AND FORM OF ACTION, ALL ACCEPTED THAT FORM SHOULD BE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS, NOT RESOLUTIONS. (COMMENT: BITTER EXPERIENCE OF LAST SESSION, AFTER WHICH WE UNDERSTAND GROUP-77 UNITS IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK CHIDED THEIR ROME COLLEAGUES, AND WFC SECRETARIAT MONTHLY CONSULTATIONS SEEM TO HAVE PAID OFF). DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FAVORED REDUCING PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS TO A MINIMUM. THE SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED A WORKING PAPER TO ASSIST IN THE REPORT, CONSISTING OF A COLLATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OR DECISIONS
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PAGE 02 ROME 06816 271901Z

SUGGESTED AT THE CLOSE OF EACH OF THE SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEETING. ALL FOUND IT HELPFUL, BUT A DEVELOPING COUNTRY TACTFULLY SUGGESTED THAT IT NOT BE CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT LEST THE SECRETARIAT APPEAR TO BE DIRECTING THE CONCLUSIONS TOO MUCH. THERE IS NO TIME TO SEND THE WORKING DOCUMENT TO WASHINGTON, BUT IT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHEN THEY ARRIVE HERE.

3. BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OPPOSED THE IDEA OF A CONTACT GROUP, AND FAVORED NON-GROUP OPERATION THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. THE IDEA OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WAS RAISED, WITHOUT RESULT, BUT THE UK REPRESENTATIVE HAS SINCE TOLD THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE USEFUL.

4. ALL SEEM RECONCILED TO CONTINUING THE EXISTING BUREAU THROUGH THE PREPARATORY MEETING. ALL WOULD PREFER IT OTHERWISE. USING THE OLD BUREAU FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND CHANGING AT THE OUTSET OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS CHANGING HORSES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREAM. THEY SEE NO WAY TO PREVENT MAREI FROM COMING, IF HE IS DETERMINED TO DO SO , HOWEVER, AND THE UN LEGAL OFFICE HAS RULED THAT THE TERM OF THE EXISTING BUREAU IS INDEED TWO YEARS, DATING FROM JUNE 1975. WFC SECRETARY OMOTOSO SAYS THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT THE TWO MAJOR POSTS ARE THE PRESIDENT, WHICH WILL UNQUESTIONABLY GO TO A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, AND RAPPORTEUR, WHICH THEN SHOULD GO TO A DEVELOPED COUNTRY.

5. THE WFC SECRETARIAT SAID THAT MAREI OF EGYPT HAD VISITED TANCO IN THE PHILIPPINES IN RECENT DAYS IN THE COURSE OF A PARLIAMENTARY TOUR OF AUSTRALIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE ALTERNATE PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE LATER, HOWEVER, THAT THE TWO HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE WFC PRESIDENCY. GARDNER

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